

American servicemember in Iraq. Having reached this unwelcome milestone, I realize that the important number, however, is and remains, one. Each loss of a servicemember in Iraq is a loss to one unit, to one family, to one mother and one father and it is a loss we all suffer together as one Nation. Each loss represents the supreme sacrifice of one more American hero, a hero that now stands forever alongside the American heroes who gave their lives in forging this great Nation in the war of independence, that preserved our Union in the Civil War, that defeated the fascists and the Nazis in World War II and that fought communism in Korea and Vietnam. Among these men and women we honor today are four from my community in Guam. These four fallen heroes are a reflection of our island's patriotism, valor and sacrifice. I mark this new milestone with great sadness but take comfort in knowing that another generation of Americans, included among them another generation of Guam's sons and daughters, has answered the call of duty to protect freedom and the American way of life. We owe a deep gratitude to these fallen men and women and to their families. May God bless them and may God bless our country.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE LIFE
AND WORKS OF WELLINGTON
MARA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of fellow Fordham University alumnus Wellington Timothy Mara, who succumbed to cancer yesterday at the age of 89. To football fans in the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan Area, Mara is synonymous with our beloved New York Giants, and has been for decades.

Born in New York City on August 14, 1916, Mara was introduced to professional football in 1925, when his father purchased the rights to establish a team in New York. It was that year that Mara had his first job with the Giants, as a ball boy. He would later recount a story from that inaugural season of overhearing head coach Robert Folwell telling his team to "give them hell out there." It was at that moment that 9-year-old Mara realized what a tough game football must be, and fell in love with the game forever.

In 1930, Timothy Mara, Wellington's father, gave the team to his two sons, Jack, 22, and Wellington, who was just 14. He became the youngest owner in the league.

In the late 1930's, Wellington Mara attended Fordham University. By now an avid football fan, Mara befriended many of the university's football players. At that time, Fordham was a formidable national powerhouse, at one point winning 25 straight games. It was here Mara befriended legendary player, coach and fellow NFL Hall of Famer Vince Lombardi.

Upon graduation in 1937, Mara joined the New York Giants operation full-time. With his brother in charge of the business, Wellington Mara soon took control of the player personnel decisions. In this role he drafted or traded for some of the all time great NFL players. He in-

tegrated the Giants at a time when much of the league remained all-white. He drafted running back Frank Gifford and Roosevelt Brown and traded for quarterback Y.A. Tittle, all future Hall of Famers. He was the architect of the dominant Giants teams of 1958–1963 when they appeared in five NFL championship games, winning one championship. The first of these championship appearances in 1958 is known as "the greatest game ever played," against the Baltimore Colts, the NFL's first ever sudden death overtime in a championship game.

During World War II Mara joined the United States Navy. He served honorably in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, earning the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

In the early 1960's, Jack and Wellington Mara agreed to give up lucrative television revenue and allow it to be equally split among all NFL teams. As the owners of the most valuable team in the league at the time, their decision to put the good of the entire league above their self-interest set the league on a path to the enormous prosperity it is enjoying today.

When the Giants hit lean times during the 1970's, Mara placed most of the blame on himself. To respond he hired George Young as General Manager, who then was the architect of the dominant Giants' teams of the late 1980's. These teams won Super Bowl XXI (1987) and Super Bowl XXV (1991). Young won five NFL Executive of the Year awards in his 19 seasons with the Giants.

All told, in Mara's 81 years with the Giants, they appeared in 26 postseasons, won 16 division championships and six NFL titles. Those six championships represent the third most of any franchise, behind only the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears.

In addition to his service to the Giants, Mara also worked hard for the league as a whole to ensure collective prosperity. He served on the league's Competition Committee, the Hall of Fame Committee, and the Executive Committee, including a term as chairman from 1971–1977. He has been widely lauded by his fellow owners for his invaluable service to the league.

In 1971–72, Fordham University inducted Mara into their Athletic Hall of Fame. Mara has continued his close ties to the university throughout his life, and in 2002 he was honored at the Fordham Founder's dinner, the university's highest honor.

In 1997 Mara was inducted into the National Football League Hall of Fame, an honor he reluctantly accepted. He was a strong advocate of leaving the Hall of Fame for just players and coaches, insisting it was they, and not owners, who made the game great.

Wellington Mara served his community as a member of the board of the Giants Foundation, a charitable organization founded by the New York Giants involved with providing financial and social support for disadvantaged youth in the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan Area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to his wife of 61 years Ann, his 11 children and 40 grandchildren.

Today I am proud to have introduced a House Resolution honoring the life and work of Wellington Timothy Mara. I respectfully urge that all my colleagues join me in paying our respects, and offer their support for this resolution.

EULOGY FOR KENNY SWYGERT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will be attending the funeral of Kenny Swygert, beloved husband of my long-time staff assistant and friend, Brenda. I submit to the record the remarks I will be making at the service.

At times such as this we find that words can never adequately provide a true expression of the sympathy we feel, and words seem so unlikely to provide comfort, but we gathered here this morning to show Brenda and her family that we are grieving with you over the loss of your beloved Kenny.

Having known Kenny from the time Brenda met him, and remembering that it was in my first Congressional office that they met due to the matchmaking efforts of brother Pat, I have always felt partly responsible for the success of their marriage, and, Brenda, you two found such happiness together that I came to believe that your marriage was one of the best things I have ever been a part of.

Over the years Brenda and Kenny have defined a good marriage for me and for all who know them, so we know how difficult this loss will be for you, Brenda, and how difficult it will be for you to be without your life partner.

Please know that your many friends, and all of those whose lives you and Kenny have touched over the years, are with you in spirit at this time of sorrow and that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

I believe that it is often the case that those who work with someone on a daily basis have a very good opportunity to know of the quality of a marriage. It is on a daily basis that one has, particularly in a small Congressional office, to see what the people with whom you work are experiencing in their lives away from the office. With Brenda, I could tell that she was married to a man who supported her and enabled her to devote herself to the demands of a Congressional career as well as give of herself to friends and family as generously as she has over the years.

And give of herself Brenda has, so much so that I knew Kenny must be a wonderfully supportive husband to tolerate her missing so many evenings at home while she was working late with me. I have benefited so much over the years from Brenda's professionalism and dedication that I haven't thought enough of thanking Kenny for allowing her to be as devoted as she is.

When Brenda was sick a couple of years we were able to see the kind of love and support that Kenny provided and how his prayers and his strength and determination that she survive was a force that encouraged and sustained Brenda in her fight to breathe and restore her health. We all worried about the illness that threatened her life and the capacity of her doctors and medicine to overcome it, but we had absolutely no worry about Brenda's will to live and her fighting spirit and that she was not alone because Kenny was there fighting with her.

Brenda, I hope that you and your family will be comforted at this time by the memories of the many good times you shared and by the knowledge that you were able to care for and comfort him at the end of his life, at his side